should be given greater importance in the curriculam of studies. In fact all subjects except the English language should be taught in Malayalam. The pay of vernacular school teachers should be raised. Incidentally the member also pleaded for the use of Malayalam for all proceedings in the Legislative Council and the Assembly.

In regard to educational institutions Government should afford proper encouragement to private schools. The Nair Service Society was now putting up a school at Haripad. Government had given some timber at concessional price for the school and thought they had done them a very great help. It was not, however, such a great thing that the Government had done. They should do some more substantial help to the school.

Finally, in order to relieve the unemployment among educated men, the member suggested that Government should open their own factories for spinning, weaving, soap-making etc. and employ these young men in the institutions. All our young men would thus get employment and then unemployment would be a thing of the past.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayana Panikkar, your representation that the voting qualification should be altered will receive the attention of Government when next the question of franchise comes up for revision.

The Department of Agriculture is doing its best to discover ways and means of eradicating the disease of the cocoanut palm. You cannot expect success in a day. They are trying to find remedies and in respect of one or two diseases they have been successful.

You ask that the pay of the pakuthi staff should be revised. I do not know whether you mean by this the Proverthikar or the subordinate establishment. If you refer to Proverthikars, I may say that their pay has been raised only last year.

The question of the Education Department and its reorganisation will be taken up when a committee or other agency is appointed to investigate into the question and that, as you will see from the address, will be taken up after the Unemployment Committee's report is received.

You have not mentioned in your list of subjects the subject of puduval lands. You urge the registry of puduvals in 10 acre blocks. The Puduval Rules will shortly be taken up for revision and your suggestion will be considered then.

**188. Administrative reforms.**

MR. C. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI, (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk, Group II*) said that excise revenue held a prominent place in the receipts of the State. Of the total revenue of Rs. 238½ laks in 1102, no less than Rs. 52 lakhs was derived from the Excise Department. Of the Rs. 52 lakhs, Rs. 10 lakhs represented the receipts from the sale of arrack. These figures, for a small State like Travancore, presented an appalling spectacle. It was the duty of the State to change this situation. The sale of intoxicants should be rigorously reduced, if not prohibited.

Market dues constituted another pernicious source of revenue to the State. The State derived about Rs. 73,000 from this item in 1102. Most of this huge sum was the result of exaction from poor people. It would be a noble act of Government to abolish this iniquitous impost.

Tolls on vehicles stood in the same plane. The income from this source in 1102 was Rs. 2½ lakhs. It was not necessary at present to abolish the system in its entirety. It would do if the method of assessment was altered. Under the present system many vehicles could evade payment. There were in fact several such instances in Kottayam and Ettumanur. It would therefore be better if every bus owner was required to pay an amount annually.

In order to improve the tone of the general administration, an Executive Council should be established. It might probably be contended that no such drastic reform was possible during the Regency period. But the establishment of an Exe-

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cutive Council would in no way affect the powers or prerogatives of the Ruler. It would only curtail the powers of the Dewan and the subordinate officers. As regards the necessity for such an institution, the persistent demand for it in successive sessions of the Assembly was ample proof. Such a body was particularly necessary when the head of the administration was a foreigner unacquainted with the needs or desires of the people.

The constitution and powers of the Legislative Council should also be reformed. The Dewan should cease to be the president of the Council. The Council should instead be allowed a non-official president.

The Press Regulation should be repealed.

The salaries of high officers should be reduced. Such a measure would go a long way to put down the communal feuds in the State, because high-paid posts often formed the central points in such feuds. There were at present eight officers, in addition to the Dewan, drawing salaries above Rs. 1,000. The State could not afford to pamper so many officers in that fashion. Nor was there any difficulty in getting competent men for lower salaries. If judges of the High Court could be got for no more than Rs. 900, there was no reason why the head of an executive department should not be available for less than Rs. 1,000.

In regard to the recruitment of officers, no person should be entertained in the service who was below 35 years of age. The fixing of the age in that manner would drive many to take up other pursuits.

The expenditure of the State could be considerably reduced by the amalgamation of many departments, such as Medical and Sanitary, P. W. D. and Railway, Agriculture and Industries, etc.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, in regard to your remarks about an Executive Council, I have nothing to add to what I have said on the subject last year.

You want an immediate reduction in the pay of the higher officers. I shall consult them on the subject.

Then you want certain departments amalgamated, for instance, the Chief Engineer and the Railway Engineer; I do not know whether the Chief Engineer will be prepared to undertake railway work. I do not know if he is an expert in railway construction. All that I know is that the Chief Engineer is a Civil Engineer and that our Railway Engineer is a Railway Engineer. And I do not know by what form of transmutation, I should combine them, and produce an amalgam by which both could be administered by one officer. You want the Departments of Industries, Agriculture and Forests amalgamated and placed under one officer. I have yet to find an agricultural expert who is qualified as a sylviculturist. So the two are separate. You want the departments of Medicine and Sanitation amalgamated and placed under one person. Here too, I want you to consider the subject in the light of modern opinion and, that, sanitation is an entirely different thing from medical aid. I fear your many amalgamations are not feasible.

You want the system of toll gates to be changed because some buses on account of the particular line they run upon do not pay any toll at all while others pay tolls. I understand you suggest a compounding of the fees into an annual payment in lieu of this. I think there are already rules for compounding fees.

### 189. Reform of the representative institutions.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Member, Karunagapalli taluk, Group II*) spoke on the necessity of reforming the constitution and powers of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council. Under the existing law franchise for the Assembly was given (*a*) to all persons who paid an annual tax of not less than Rs. 50 and (*b*) to all graduates of not less than ten years' standing. Even at the time of the formation of the Assembly, the number of persons paying not less than Rs. 50 as tax was comparatively small. The number had become smaller and smaller after that. With the passing of the Nair and the Ezhava Regulations and the consequent partition of joint family properties, the number had become smaller still. The tendency was

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